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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Press Conference:
Ambassador Zdzislaw Rurarz

STATION C-SPAN

DATE December 28, 1982 8:00 P.M. CITY Washington, DC

SUBJECT Full Text

WILLIAM GILL: If any of you didn't get the press release or the Ambassador's statement, we have some, I believe, both at the door and up here. So you can come up and get it.

I am William Gill, a friend of the Ambassador's. And on Saturday morning I picked up the Washington Post and I found a two-paragraph notice on the run-over page for the story on Poland that morning that ex-Ambassador Rurarz, now in the U.S., receives death sentence in absentia. I immediately thought that something ought to be done to at least write a little insurance policy, perhaps, on the Ambassador's life. And so I called him, and we got our friends at the Council for the Defense of Freedom, and they agreed to cooperate with us in this press conference this morning.

The Ambassador has a statement to make, and then it will be open to questions.

Ambassador Rurarz

AMBASSADOR ZDZISLAW RURARZ: Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Gill. On December 17, 1982, the military tribunal in Warsaw passed on me a death sentence in absentia for allegedly committing high treason. The real treason, of course, is the treason that General Jaruzelski and his junta committed against Poland and our people when they proclaimed martial law a year ago and proceeded to suppress the free trade union movement Solidarity.

Actually, what Jaruzelski's junta did was to declare war against the Polish people, a war that the world knows was instigated by the Soviet Union. At the time this war was